II. *AIDS Case Surveillance*

AIDS Cases in India	6609	2
Males	5204 (78.74%)	-
Females	1405 (21.26%)	2 (100%)

Probale Source of Infection

No. of Cases		Percentage
Heterosexual Promiscuous	4901	74.16
Transfusion of Blood and Blood product	538	8.14
Homosexual contact	36	0.54
Injectable Drug Addicts	467	7.07
Others (Not Specified)	667	10.09
Total:	6609	

Setting up of National Commission on Children

704. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up National Commission on Children;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration/finalised;

(c) the present status of the proposal, the terms of reference and composition of the Commission;

(d) whether private agencies/NGOs would also be involved; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of fresh initiatives taken by Government during recent months for implementing the ban on child labour and several other steps for welfare and development of children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The matter regarding setting up of a National Commission for Children is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Child labour is a deep rooted Socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time.

So far 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned by the Government in the child labour endemic states for the coverage of 1.5 lakh children for their rehabilitation from hazardous work. Children engaged in non-hazardous nature are mainly being taken care of through formal and non-formal education. The Government have also released funds of Rs. 1317.76 lakhs for the rehabilitation of child labour through 64 voluntary organizations during 1997-98.

Apart from rehabilitative measures the various provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is also being enforced with a view to prohibit the employment of children in certain occupations and processes and regulating their working conditions in those occupations/processes not prohibited under the Acts. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which has given several directions, in its judgement dated 10.12.1996 including payment of compensation by the employers by employing children in hazardous occupation. The Government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

An initiative to strengthen and improve the quality of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) aimed at the holistic development of children has almost been finalised to cover six States, i.e. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, there is also a national programme to develop and upgrade the skills and capacities of persons working towards women and child development.

Thefts from the Monuments of Historical Importance

705.PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thefts have been reported from some of the monuments of historical importance managed by Archaeological Survey of India in the recent past; if so, the details of such thefts and those committed during the last three years; and

(b) what preventive measures are proposed to be taken to protect country's prestigious heritage?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A few theft cases of antiquities have been reported from the protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India. A list of such objects, as per available information, is given in the Annexure (*see* Appendix 185 Annexure No. 17)

(b) Measures have been taken to check the theft of antiquities from the protected monuments/sites by careful vigilance at the monuments as well as strict enforcement of the Antiquities and the monuments as well as strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed Guards have been deployed at selected monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India. Steps have also been indentified in concert with the enforcing agencies like the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs authorities and the State Governments concerned to check the thefts of antiquities and their smuggling by intensifying vigilance and checks at Customs exit points.

Reforms in the Higher Education System

706.DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher education in the country is cheaper than the primary education in Private Schools; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to introduce reforms in the higher education system as demanded by the University teachers?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Fee charged for primary classes by some Private Schools is generally higher than that in Governemnt/ Government aided colleges.

(b) The Government and UGC have taken several measures to introduce reforms in higher education. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows:—

- Revision of pay scales of colleges and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test Introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 Disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programme.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the University system.
- Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observances of at least 18 teaching days by universities/ colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified. by UGC.

Central University Status to Allahabad University

707.SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2702, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th July, 1998 and state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in declaring Allahabad University as a Central University; and

(b) the steps taken so far in this regard by the Central Governemnt?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The issue of conversion of Allahabad University was under consideration of Government. While taking up this issue, the Govt. had to consider similar demands of other Universities. A decision was